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(18 October and 22 November 2000)

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Resolution

2000/35
Report on the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1995/226 of 1 June 1995, approving the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests to pursue consensus and to formulate coordinated proposals for action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests,

Also recalling its resolution 1997/65 of 25 July 1997, approving the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests and to promote and facilitate the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests,

Taking into account decision 8/2 of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[1] which welcomed the report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests[2] and endorsed the conclusions and proposals for action contained therein, in particular regarding an international arrangement on forests,[3]

1. *Decides* that the main objective of the international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The purpose of such an international arrangement is to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels, to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development, and to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles),[5] chapter 11 of Agenda 21[6] and the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests process, in a manner consistent with and complementary to existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests;

2. *Decides also* that to achieve the objective, the international arrangement on forests will perform the following principal functions:

(a) Facilitate and promote the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action as well as

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 9* (E/2000/29), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] E/CN.17/2000/14.

[3] Ibid., sect. II, annex, appendix.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex III.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

other actions which may be agreed upon, including through national forest programmes and other integrated programmes relevant to forests; catalyse, mobilize and generate financial resources; and mobilize and channel technical and scientific resources to this end, including by taking steps towards the broadening and development of mechanisms and/or further initiatives to enhance international cooperation;

(b) Provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, which would involve international organizations and other interested parties, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, to foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management and to address forest issues and emerging areas of priority concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner;

(c) Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors;

(d) Foster international cooperation, including North-South and public-private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels;

(e) Monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments, as well as by regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments, and on this basis consider future actions needed;

(f) Strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests through ministerial engagement; developing ways to liaise with the governing bodies of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments; and the promotion of action-oriented dialogue and policy formulation related to forests;

3. *Decides*, in order to achieve the objective and to carry out the functions outlined above:

(a) To establish an intergovernmental body called the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) To invite the executive heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to form a collaborative partnership on forests to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to enhance cooperation and coordination among participants, and to call upon their governing bodies and their heads to support the activities of the collaborative partnership on forests to achieve the goals of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(c) That the United Nations Forum on Forests will, inter alia:

(i) Within five years, on the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) above, consider, with a view to recommending to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. This process could develop the financial provisions to implement any future agreed legal

framework. The process could also consider recommendations made by the expert groups referred to in paragraph 4 (k) below on the establishment of mechanisms on finance, technology transfer and trade;

(ii) Take steps to devise approaches towards appropriate financial and technology transfer support to enable the implementation of sustainable forest management, as recommended under the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests processes;

4. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation, including voting rights, with the following working modalities:

(a) The United Nations Forum on Forests should be open to all States and operate in a transparent and participatory manner. Relevant international and regional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as major groups, as identified in the Agenda 21, should also be involved;

(b) The United Nations Forum on Forests will operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, provided that this is not in contradiction with paragraph 4;

(c) The supplementary arrangements established by the Economic and Social Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in Council decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 will also apply to the United Nations Forum on Forests. Within the rules of procedure, the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests should build upon the transparent and participatory practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

(d) The Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests will consist of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

(e) The United Nations Forum on Forests will report to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly;

(f) The United Nations Forum on Forests will seek ways and means of strengthening synergies and coordination in policy development and implementation of forest-related activities, inter alia, through making the reports of its sessions available to relevant United Nations bodies and other international forest-related organizations, instruments and intergovernmental processes;

(g) The United Nations Forum on Forests will work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, drawing on the elements reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action;

(h) The United Nations Forum on Forests should maintain close links with the Commission on Sustainable Development, inter alia, through the convening of joint bureau meetings, taking particular account of the importance of ensuring the

coherence of its activities with the broader sustainable development agenda carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(i) The United Nations Forum on Forests may hold its sessions at venues other than United Nations Headquarters in accordance with established United Nations rules and practices;

(j) The United Nations Forum on Forests will initially meet annually, for a period of up to two weeks, subject to the review referred to below. The United Nations Forum on Forests will have a high-level ministerial segment for two to three days, as required. The high-level segment could include a one-day policy dialogue with the heads of organizations participating in the collaborative partnership on forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments. The United Nations Forum on Forests should ensure the opportunity to receive and consider inputs from representatives of major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in particular through the organization of multi-stakeholder dialogues;

(k) The United Nations Forum on Forests may recommend, as appropriate, the convening of ad hoc expert groups of limited duration, involving experts from developed and developing countries, for scientific and technical advice as well as to consider mechanisms and strategies for the finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and may encourage country-sponsored initiatives, such as international expert meetings;

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, taking into account its resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, make the necessary provisions so that travel expenses for one representative of each of those member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests that is also a member State of the Commission on Sustainable Development and is participating in a session of the Forum are paid from the regular budget of the United Nations;

6. *Invites* voluntary extrabudgetary contributions in support of the participation of representatives of developing countries that are not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development in sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its subsidiary bodies;

7. *Decides* that the United Nations Forum on Forests will:

(a) Hold a short organizational meeting, as soon as possible, with the purpose of electing its officers, determining the duration of their terms of office and considering all proposals and options on the location of the secretariat, in conjunction with four days of informal consultations regarding the draft multi-year programme of work;

(b) Hold its first substantive session in 2001 with the following provisional agenda:

(i) Adoption of the multi-year programme of work;

(ii) Development of a plan of action for the implementation of Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action, which will address financial provisions;

(iii) Initiation of the United Nations Forum on Forests work with the collaborative partnership on forests;

(iv) Provisional agenda, date and venue for its second substantive session in 2002;

(v) Proposed venues of future United Nations Forum on Forests sessions;

8. *Recommends* that the collaborative partnership on forests build on a high-level, informal group, such as the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests,[7] which would receive guidance from the United Nations Forum on Forests; facilitate and promote coordinated and cooperative action, including joint programming and submissions of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies; and facilitate donor coordination. Such a partnership would submit coordinated inputs and progress reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests, operate in an open, transparent and flexible manner, and undertake periodic reviews of its effectiveness;

9. The United Nations Forum on Forests should complete its consideration of the issues noted in paragraph 3 (c) (ii) above, as a matter of priority in the context of the multi-year programme of work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a compact secretariat, comprised of highly qualified staff, constituted in accordance with established rules and procedures of the United Nations and strengthened through staff from secretariats of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, to support the work described above. The secretariat should service the United Nations Forum on Forests and support the collaborative partnership on forests. It should also coordinate its activities with the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat;

11. *Decides*, bearing in mind paragraph 10 above and unless otherwise decided intergovernmentally, that the secretariat will preferably be located at United Nations Headquarters in New York. A recommendation for a final decision on this matter should be made at the first organizational meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in early 2001, taking into consideration all proposals;

12. *Encourages* the executive heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to support the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, including through seconding staff, as done during the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests process;

13. *Recommends* that the funding for the functioning of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the secretariat should be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations, within existing resources, resources of organizations participating in the partnership and extrabudgetary resources provided by interested donors. Specific modalities would be determined by relevant bodies of the United Nations and the governing bodies of the other organizations concerned;

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[7] At present, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests is composed of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Center for International Forestry Research, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank and is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

14. *Recommends* that the General Assembly decide on the funding for the functioning of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the secretariat in accordance with the budget procedures established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in proposing future United Nations programme budgets, to include provisions for the United Nations Forum on Forests and its secretariat;

16. *Calls upon* interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to a trust fund to be established in order to facilitate, in particular, an early start of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its secretariat;

17. *Decides* that the international arrangement on forests should be dynamic and adapt to evolving conditions and that the effectiveness of this arrangement would be reviewed in five years, and decides further, that the five-year review of this arrangement will also address the institutional framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including its position within the United Nation system;

18. *Decides* that the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests should not be construed as constituting a precedent.

46th plenary meeting
18 October 2000

Decisions

2000/201 F
Elections to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council took the following action with regard to postponed vacancies in its subsidiary and related bodies:

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Council elected **Austria** for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of two members from African States, three members from Asian States and two members from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The Council elected **Hungary** for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of four members from African States, one member from Eastern European States and two members from Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

The Council elected **Bahamas** for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of one member from Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2001.

2000/303
Themes for the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided on the following themes for its substantive session of 2001:

High-level segment

"The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development"

Coordination segment

"The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies, inter alia through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector".

2000/304
Dates for the fifth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided that the 5th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be held in Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2001.

2000/305
Dates for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided that the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development should be held from 2 to 6 April 2001.

2000/306
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

General consultative status

None

Special consultative status

Ahmedabad Women's Action Group

AIDS Information Switzerland

Alan Guttmacher Institute

American Psychological Association

Annai Educational Society

Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum

Association tunisienne des droits de l'enfant

Child Welfare League of America

China Society for Promotion of the Guangcai Programme

Climate Institute

Development Promotion Group

Fonds E7 pour le développement énergétique durable

Fundación "8 de Marzo" para la Promoción de Mujeres y Jóvenes

Global Eco-Village Network

Institute for Environment and Development Studies

Institute of International Social Development

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

International Planned Parenthood Federation (South Asia Regional Office)

International Presentation Association

Islamic Centre (England)

Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children

Mothers' Union

National Council of Women of Great Britain

Network of Human Development

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Peaceways

Radin Institute for Family Health and Education Programme

Research Centre for Feminist Action

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

Union of Kuwaiti Women Associations

Voluntary Action Network India

Roster

Cherokee Nation of New Jersey

China Association of Women Entrepreneurs

Union internationale des journalistes et de la presse de langue française

(b) To reclassify one organization from special to general consultative status:

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

(c) Not to grant consultative status to the following five organizations:

Association pour la fondation Mohsen Hachtroudi

Enchanté répertoire de la tranquilité

Kazem Rajavi International Association for the Defence of Human Rights

North America Taiwanese Women's Association

Tamil Centre for Human Rights

(d) To close its consideration of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedom;

(e) That the applications of the following two organizations should be resubmitted to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at a later stage since these organizations had not yet been in existence for the mandatory two years to qualify for consideration, as follows:

(i) Hague Appeal for Peace would resubmit its application to the Committee at its 2000 resumed session;

(ii) Dominicans for Justice and Peace would resubmit its application to the Committee at its 2001 regular session;

(f) That the non-governmental organization Safari Club International should reapply as the Safari Club International Foundation when it had fulfilled the mandatory two years of existence to qualify for consideration of consultative status.

2000/307
Suspension of consultative status of the International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to suspend, for a period of three years, the special consultative status of the International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents as of 28 July 2000 in accordance with paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

2000/308
Resumed 2000 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session from 15 to 26 January 2001, in order to complete the work of its 2000 session.

2000/309
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2000 session and provisional agenda for the 2001 session of the Committee

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the first and second parts of its 2000 session[8] and approved the provisional agenda for the 2001 session of the Committee as set out below:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
4. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31;
   (c) Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat;
   (d) Other related matters.
5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302.
6. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.
7. Consideration of special reports.
8. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2002 session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

[8] E/2000/88 (Part I) and Add.1, and E/2000/88 (Part II) and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

2000/310
Participation of non-governmental organizations in the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council, acting in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 53 of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and taking into account the fact that no further meetings of the Council were scheduled at which it would be possible to consider relevant recommendations of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, decided, on an exceptional basis and as an interim measure, to invite those non-governmental organizations accredited to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and/or the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly to attend the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, provided that they had started the process of applying for consultative status in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31.

2000/311
Grave and massive violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 22 November 2000, the Economic and Social Council, having taken note of Commission on Human Rights resolution S-5/1 of 19 October 2000,[9] and endorse the Commission's decisions:

(a) To establish, on an urgent basis, a human rights inquiry commission, whose membership should be based on the principles of independence and objectivity, to gather and compile information on violations of human rights and acts that constituted grave breaches of international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupying Power in the occupied Palestinian territories and to provide the Commission with its conclusions and recommendations, with the aim of preventing the repetition of the recent human rights violations;

(b) To request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an urgent visit to the occupied Palestinian territories to take stock of the violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupying Power, to facilitate the activities of the mechanisms of the Commission in implementation of the present resolution, to keep the Commission informed of developments and to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) To request the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Representative of the Secretary-General for internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 22* (E/2000/112), chap. II.

aspects related to the right to adequate housing contained in the right to an adequate standard of living, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out immediate missions to the occupied Palestinian territories and to report the findings to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.